not planned to be worked by the CIL by the XI plan period. In implementation of the above decision, 48 coal blocks from CIL area and 33 coal blocks from the non-CIL area have been identified for allocation to Government companies/permissible end-users.

Amendment of MMDR Act and MC Rules

1641. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view to amend Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for speedy and time bound development of mineral resources available in the State of Rajasthan and Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are considering to strengthen State Government by providing more power by deleting part 'A' and part 'C' of Schedule-I of MMDR Act; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) No specific amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for speedy and time bound development of mineral resources in the State of Rajasthan and Karnataka is under consideration. However, a High Level Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Member Planning Commission to review the National Mineral Policy and to recommend possible amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the mining sector. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 20.07.2006.

Coal Reserves in Orissa

†1642. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

(a) whether it is a fact that 61 billion tonnes of coal reserves have still been estimated in the State of Orissa;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.